

WHAT IS GOING ON ALL OVER MARION COUNTY

BERLIN CORRESPONDENCE

The Claims of the Disciples of the "Church of God" Disputed.

Special Correspondence Ocala Banner. The weekly Star of February 23rd contained an article signed by W. O. Williams. It was a reply to an article written previous to that time, and gave facts as he preached them during the two meetings he held in this vicinity, and if you will kindly give me space in your valuable paper, I would like to explain to the gentleman what is a sect; and before I am through, will ask him to show me where God established any church at all on the day of Pentecost. First I want to call his attention to:

What is a Sect?

In defending the practices of the "Church of God," the writer resented the idea that said church was a "sect!" In defining the word he actually makes Webster say that "a sect is a heresy!" Where he found such a definition is not known. Webster says that a sect is a "religious denomination or school." And as sectarianism is "devotion to a sect," any follower of a denomination is a sectarian.

But the word, "heresy," has quite a different meaning—being defined by Webster as "a fundamental error in doctrine." So we can only say that heresy may belong to a sect, but a sect is not necessarily a "heresy." All religious denominations including the "Church of God," are sects. For one to contend otherwise is an evidence of ignorance or pharisaical bigotry.

Since this much is written, it may not be amiss to note another strange contention. The sect called the "Church of God" in Blitchton claims to have come into active operations in 1830, and yet pretends to run back to Pentecost! It is passing strange that other sects had been saving souls by the millions, and that the only true "Church of God," had been asleep for 1830 years! That beats Rip Van Winkle! In 1836, six years after the above date a book, "What the World Believes," was written by fourteen eminent scholars and it gives a "brief" on the origin of the "Church of God," and gives its birth in the year 1830. This would put them fifty years closer to Pentecost, but still it would seem strange that the only true "Church of God," was left in the lurch for 1830 years. It seems, however, that while the "Church of God," described by this book was professedly "without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing," the sect at Blitchton claims a still different origin, "as different as day is from night,"—bursting forth in absolute perfection in the year 1830! If it is more perfect than the one born in 1830, what will the next one be? and when? Well, perhaps the next will be like Melchizedek—without beginning of days or end of time!

"The Church of God."

We do not contend with an organization about the name it assumes. Any sect has an indisputable right to name itself as it pleases. We have, therefore, no criticism to make against the mere name of the sect called, "The Church of God." But when the implication is made that there is no church of God except the one bearing that distinctive title, we file a most emphatic protest. The Church of God, strictly speaking, is composed of those who have consecrated themselves to God, and are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation, and these are found in all churches. But here comes a sect calling itself the only true Church of God, founded on the day of Pentecost! Notwithstanding the fact that Time's clock has marked off nineteen centuries, and that the historic path back to Pentecost has become obstructed by Alpine impossibilities, and that the most intelligent combatants have torn up that path, and kicked up dust till it mingled with the fog, falling to the earth in the shape of mud, and thus making the subject as "clear as mud," this sect actually flies its claim to Pentecostal ancestry! It reminds us of the man who put a brick in an incubator, and claimed that he could hatch out a house fronting the sea! We suppose he is still "claiming." The "Church of God," claiming to be the only true church, is the brick in an incubator, and is not apt to hatch! Would it not be better to fix a more modern date of birth (say about 1830 or any modern date) so as to make it come within the bounds of credibility? The fact is, when one claims Pentecostal ancestry, some one else might go him one better, and claim that his church antedated Pentecost, and that his church "there were added such as were being saved!" But it may be that these claims are based mainly upon certain characteristics or practices. Let us notice a few.

First Church government. But why claim to be the only Scriptural government unless we knew exactly what the apostolic church government was?

Since definitions change with the lapse of time no man can tell exactly what all was included in the early church government. Even if he knew what it was, it is absurd to think a form of government that suited the apostolic age would suit all ages! God furnishes spiritual life, and then leaves us to manifest the life in any form suitable to the age in which we live. All life in forest and field is alike, but different in form. So, if any church government has spiritual life in it, the form has nothing to do in settling the claim to divine origin.

Second, faith without works in healing the sick. If Christ called Luke to preach, and the Acts of the Apostles refers to him as the "beloved physician," there must have been a place for medicine. Yes, and James, another apostle, tells us that the medicine is to be used even in connection with the prayer of faith. He says let the elders "anoint him with oil"—an expression that covered the apostolic materia medica.

Third, wearing gold or costly apparel. This sect has shot wide of the meaning of I Peter 3:3, 4. The Bible delights in making absolute that which is relative, and relative that which is absolute. Instance: "Let us not love in word and tongue but in deed and in truth." Is it a sin to love in word and tongue? No. It simply means that loving in deed is better, and must be added to word-love, and tongue-love. Now take Peter's language: "Let it not be that outward adorning of wearing of gold and costly apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart." Is it a sin to wear gold, or any nice thing? No. It simply means that the inner adorning of the heart is so much more important that it should not be neglected. Yet this sect, claiming to be infallibly correct, has put a false interpretation upon this scripture, and cast off gold buttons, finger rings, neckties and everything they fancy the apostles did not wear! But the matter of dress, like the matter of church government, is left to the taste and good sense of men in every age. There is no such thing as an apostolic pair of breeches! If the "Church of God" would primp like an apostle it will have to discard buttons and wear a tunic and a loose over cloak, bound to the girdle with a big string! A pastor once "skinned" the women for wearing the big trumpet sleeves. Having been born when the small sleeve was in style, he thought that was the scriptural sleeve! But God has left us no patterns by which to cut dresses and breeches. The fact is He expected us to improve on the garments of His Son and of the apostles. And there is no such thing as an absolute prohibition of gold about the person, or any ornament that improves the appearance of God's workmanship. True religion will exercise taste, good sense, and conscience as to character of the ornament and the amount used.

This has not been written for a newspaper controversy but simply to give the plain facts in the case. In conclusion will insist on the gentleman to show us where we can find in the New Testament, where Christ established any church on the day of Pentecost. Sincerely,
ONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

GRAHAMVILLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Priest, of Kendrick, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. Priest's mother, Mrs. Randall.

Albert Graham has been home for a while.

Dr. Percy Lisk came in last week from Atlanta.

Mr. Ollie Harper and Miss Blanche Marsh, of Daisy attended church here Sunday.

Miss Maggie Sewell left Saturday for Nashua, to visit her sister, Mrs. Wain.

Our Methodist minister, Rev. Cunningham, was here last week organizing a Sunday school. Mrs. Nix, formerly of Kendrick, but now a resident of this place, was appointed superintendent; Mrs. Emma Goolsby, teacher of intermediate class and Miss Florence Marlow, teacher of infant class. We hope our Sunday school will be a success.

Rev. Graham, of Anthony, preached here Sunday.

Mrs. Minnie Barner, of Mascotte, came Saturday and will probably spend several weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Gore.

Mrs. Will ... of Jacksonville is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Randall returned last week from Palmetto, accompanied by Mrs. J. B. Owen and little sons, Johnnie and Albert.

A pair of our White House shoes will make your feet glad. New low quarter styles just in for men and women. The Fair.

DAISY NO. 1.

The weather is dry but pleasant. The roads hard and dusty. Quite a number of visitors poured into our little place the past few days and are registered at the boarding house of Mrs. and Miss Marsh. They report everything in good shape at Astor where they hail from. Astor is, as everybody knows, one of the prettiest little places in Florida.

Mr. Claude Proctor was a caller here Saturday and reports things pleasant at Patrico. Colonel O'Hara, who has the reputation of being the king among good natured men, honored our burg with a visit the other day.

It is a pleasure to report that everybody here are well and enjoying life to the fullest.

Come over, Mr. Editor, and let's go fishing. I think we could catch one, as there is a large cat fish turned loose in the river with a large shingle tied to him. I can catch him if you can catch the rest.

Mr. Harper and his best girl were at preaching at Grahamville Sunday and listened to a very fine sermon from the Rev. Cunningham, and, of course, enjoyed the drive going and returning.

Our roads are very much in need of some one to remove the fallen timber with which they are becoming blockaded between Grahamville and Daisy. A certain young man drives the road at least once a week but makes no complaint for fear of giving himself away.

The new shop is running at full blast, the blacksmith, Mr. Johnson, says that the business is good.

Mysterious People.

The dividing line between sanity and insanity is much finer and more difficult to trace than many people suppose; in fact, few persons take the trouble to think about it. Possibly no man who excels in anything, is, in the true sense of the word, absolutely sane.

The eccentricities of poets, musicians, artists, writers, sculptors, etc., may be given as examples, and amongst smaller men than these, the same rule holds good. As soon as a man becomes thoughtfully absorbed in one direction his perception of things in other directions become blunted. This it is that accounts for much that is abnormal in the people around us. It may not be too much to say that most crimes that are committed come from this abnormality or madness.

—F. M.

Daisy Items, No. 2.

The weather is now very fine and the farmers are busy planting.

No season of the year is more pleasant than when the farmers are busy sowing unless it is when they are busy reaping their crops.

Rev. Harmon Martin preached three most interesting sermons at this place last Sunday and we are glad to say that he helped to reorganize the Sunday school here. He will again fill an appointment the second Sunday. He is very popular here and his sermons are very much enjoyed.

Mr. Oliver Johnson and Mr. Fred Wellhorne paid Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Marsh a visit here Sunday.

I am sorry that "June Bug" interfered with the people of Daisy but as he crowded the season he must call again. I don't think he will now give any trouble as the weather is so warm.

Call again, "F. M." as you give the people such good advice, I think some of the mothers and daughters needed some of the advice you dealt out to them in such generous quantities.

JUNE BUG.

McINTOSH NEWS NOTES.

J. C. Norsworthy and wife have returned to their home in St. Thomas, Canada, after a three months' visit with Mr. Norsworthy's brother, W. G. Norsworthy and family of this place. Mr. Norsworthy and wife were very pleasant visitors indeed and made many friends while here and everyone who met them will be glad when they return early in the fall to make a longer stay with us next winter.

Miss Cora Griffin, of Ocala, visited Miss Annette Gist, and other friends for a few days last week.

Dr. E. O. Guerrant, with wife and daughter are visiting Dr. E. O. Guerrant, Jr., and family of this place. The doctor and family are on their way back to their Kentucky home. The doctor after remaining here for one day only, went on to Valdosta, from there he goes to Atlanta, when his wife and daughter will overtake him in a few days. Then all proceed to Kentucky.

Miss Davis, of Willimore, Ky., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Dr. Ed. Guerrant, Jr.

After showing a Kentuckian over the stock farm of Mr. S. H. Galtskill, he remarked that it did one good to look at those fine short-horn cattle, said those thoroughbreds, seemed like home to him, and the broad fields of Ber-

muda grass having the appearance of Kentucky blue grass, certainly did make a kind of home like feeling run through ones veins.

L. D. Stark has sold his farm near Evinston to O. D. Huff, and will make McIntosh his temporary winter home, until he gets settled again. We hope they will make it permanent.

E. C. Hutchinson and wife have had quite a time with sick children of late, two of them seriously ill for several days, but we are glad to note all are much better now, and we hope to see them all well in a few days.

Fruit on the orange trees seems to be setting fine for a heavy crop, and this fall will see McIntosh her old self again.

The popular merchant, postmaster and vegetable broker, J. K. Christian, traded his buggy horse, "Old Bill," with the gypsies this week. That lot of gypsies have gone but Mr. Christian is anxious to see another lot come. He still wants to trade horses.

The cabbage growers are all happy and the prices of cabbage and other truck through this section has created considerable interest and several land deals have been made.

Mrs. Waddell, wife of Conductor Waddell of the Atlantic Coast Line, is visiting Mrs. G. A. Flewellen.

Mrs. Sutton and her sister-in-law, Miss Sutton, from Atlanta, Ga., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Means. They have been spending the winter in south Florida, and have gotten this far-back returning to Atlanta.

Mr. E. W. Rush made a business trip to Inverness this week.

Rev. Sam White is at McIntosh and began protracted services in the Christian church here Monday night, Prof. Wilson, of Kentucky, will lead the singing.

For a Weak Digestion.

No medicine can replace food but Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets will help you to digest your food. It is not the quantity of food taken that gives strength and vigor to the system, but the amount digested and assimilated. If troubled with a weak digestion, do not fail to give these Tablets a trial. Thousands have been benefitted by their use. They only cost a quarter. For sale by all druggists.

CITRA NEWS NOTES.

The tourist season is closed. Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Brooks, of Maynard, Mass.; Mr. F. P. McWhorter, of Nashville, Tenn.; Mr. John Couper, of Norfolk, Va., being the last to leave the Mansion. Mr. Couper and family came a month ago for Mr. Couper's health, which was greatly improved. Miss Couper has a fine voice, well cultivated, and has added much to the pleasure of the guests and others.

The guests of Mrs. E. A. White have left except Miss Hoss, who will remain a few weeks longer.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. P. Bishop, of New York, are at their residence here for a few weeks. Mrs. P. Bishop will return with them. Citra has enjoyed very much her stay and hopes she will open her house next winter.

Hon. E. L. Wartman is campaigning at present. There seems no doubt as to his return to the legislature.

W. H. Crosby has transformed the H. B. Stevens place by additions, paint and whitewash, making it one of the most attractive places in town.

The home of Mrs. Bishop is receiving a coat of cream, with trimming of cinnamon brown, improving very much its appearance.

The town council has levied a city tax, first for several years, with view of trimming trees, clearing up streets and improvement generally.

Governor Jennings, accompanied by Miss Ella Richard, of Asbury Park, N. Y., and Miss Crimell, of Pennsylvania, were registered at the Mansion last week. They drove to Silver Springs, the most wonderful spot in Florida.

C. W. Driver is home for a couple of weeks.

James B. Borland has gone to Orange river for a few weeks. They have about one thousand boxes of fruit there yet, which means fine prices at present.

Lettuce has done well and shipments of beans will soon commence.

The cold has done but little damage to groves, and the bloom continues to come out strong and healthy, looking like old times.

Dr. Eton Smith, of Jacksonville, representing Dr. Armstrong, has been doing some work here lately.

A Lucyk Postmistress.

Is Mrs. Alexander, of Karey, Me., who has found Dr. King's New Life Pills to be the best remedy she has ever tried for keeping the stomach and liver and bowels in perfect order. You will agree with her if you try these painless purifiers that infuse new life. Guaranteed by Tydings & Co., druggists. Price 25c.

Ocala gardeners are supplying the editor of The Banner with new Irish potatoes.—Gainesville Sun. Yes, and these gardeners are boys, one in knee breeches. Everybody in Ocala are on the move and even the boys have caught the spirit.

BELLEVUE BULLETINS.

Mrs. Williams and her daughter, Mrs. Keys, who have spent the winter here left Monday for their home in Massachusetts.

Miss Sophia Reineohl, who has assisted Prof. Green in the school, left Monday for her home at Starke.

Monday evening Mrs. Tremmer gave a large party, complimentary to Miss Slaughter, who has spent the past four months here with Dr. and Mrs. Slaughter. Miss Slaughter left Monday night for her home at Jackson, Ga.

The closing exercises of our school last Friday evening were very entertaining and showed that teachers and pupils had done good work. While all did well we think Walter Liddell and Lorena Freeman deserve special mention. Prof. Green presented Miss Lorena with a \$5.00 gold piece, for the best attendance.

It has been the custom for several years to have a picnic the day after school closed for the pupils and friends of the school. The picnic of last Saturday was a very pleasant one.

Among those from Ocala were Miss Leila Farris, Messrs. Cecil Bryant, Walter Nelson and Sidney Maddox, Mr. C. L. Bittinger, of Ocala, attended the school entertainment Friday evening.

Rev. Mr. Dean made a business trip to Ocala Tuesday.

Mr. Arthur Hardaker, of Martel, was a guest of the Slaughter family last Sunday.

Miss Emma Washburn, one of the Marion hospital nurses, spent from Friday until Monday here with her parents.

Mrs. Slaughter left Tuesday for a six week's visit to relatives at Guthrie, Ky., and Jackson, Ga. Dr. Slaughter accompanied her as far as Ocala. Mrs. Washburn, president of the local W. C. T. U., has gone as a delegate to the state convention being held in Gainesville this week.

Miss Pauline Canther, of Candler, came over Friday to attend the picnic and remained until Monday the guest of her sister, Mrs. Pelot.

Messrs. Hulme and J. G. Spurlin were among the commercial men here this week.

BLITCHTON.

Landis and Loomis Blitch are visiting their friend, Johnnie Edwards at Inverness.

Worry kills more people than work because more people tackle it.

Speaking of work calls to mind the beautiful orange grove belonging to Rev. Mr. Crumpton near Blitchton. It is unequalled and is the product of faith, industry and good judgment. Mr. Crumpton is an earnest preacher and an industrious farmer. He never sits around and frets, whines and complains at the success and the prosperity of others.

Our good neighbor, G. M. Richard, wants the legislature to advocate a good fence law. The farmers all know what this means.

Rev. A. L. Prisoc preached Sunday morning and evening at Blitchton. His sermon to the unconverted was appropriate, effective and eloquent. Under the influence of his happy and graphic illustrations, his touching appeals, deep pathos and resistless eloquence his intelligent and earnest audience were stirred to great enthusiasm.

Prof. M. H. Brown has invited all of his pupils to his home next Saturday to enjoy an Easter egg hunt.

Eli Geiger and Miss Mattie Godwin were made man and wife last Sunday at the home of the bride's father by Rev. Z. A. Crumpton.

GAITERVILLE.

The crops in this section have been badly damaged by the cool nights of the past week. The farmers are now in hopes that the cool weather is about over, as Easter is near at hand. Rain is badly needed for the crops

already planted, and for planting the remainder of the field crops. Oats are looking well notwithstanding the cold weather and need of rain and the farmers are looking forward to a good harvest.

The health of this section is excellent.

Mr. J. E. Brooks, the Cove Bend farmer, was in Gaiterville Sunday and says his corn is far in advance of any in this part of the county.

Mr. D. L. Aiken, of Lakeland, was here last week and said Lakeland is all O. K. these days. While here he was the guest of his father-in-law, Mr. W. T. Strickland.

Mr. Henry Tombling, of Tampa, was in Gaiterville Sunday, the guest of his brother-in-law, Mr. R. D. Stokes, Mr. Tombling was at one time a resident of Gaiterville and all gave him a hearty hand shake.

Saturday was a "business day" in the Mining City. Among those from Gaiterville there were Messrs. A. L. Ross, J. G. Ruckes, W. L. Jordan, Master George Thomas and "Uncle Joe."

There is some party or parties quite smart of late. They seem to enjoy boat riding too as several boats of late have been borrowed and one has not yet been returned. But maybe it will yet.

The Gaiterville Improvement Society is progressing nicely. Several new members have joined and others are expected to join at an early date.

Mr. H. A. Ross has his new house nearly completed and will soon move into it.

Fishing is getting to be the order of the day and the fish are biting well.

Your scribe finds Sunday to be a long, lonesome day here of late. He is wishing for the coming of shorter days. Well, well. Happiness and pleasant dreams to the editor and staff.

"UNCLE JOE."

ANDALUSIA PENCILINGS.

We are now beginning to have real summer weather.

The entertainment given by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hobkirk last Friday night was attended by a large gathering and was greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Hobkirk certainly did honor to the occasion as a hostess and caused everyone to pass a most agreeable evening.

Messrs. G. C. Butler and Ab Webster have been in our neighborhood for the past few days. The former had a car load of very fine horses and mules for sale.

Mr. Chester Powell, formerly of Ocala, have moved to this place and is making his home with Mr. Will Butler. The young folks are glad to extend Mr. Powell a welcome for he brings with him his two beautiful and charming daughters, Miss Ebbie and Miss Everline Powell. They will add very much to our social circles.

A certain young lady has a pug dog, a present from the young man who recently came up to see her from Tampa.

Mr. J. D. Hobkirk, of this place, spent Sunday at the Meadows with his son-in-law, Mr. James Ausley.

Rev. W. R. York, of Citra, preached an excellent sermon in the school house here Sunday afternoon. It was heard and enjoyed by a large congregation.

Miss Julie Jirkins, of Citra, was the guest of the Misses Burleson last Sunday.

There will be a meeting at the school house here next Sunday afternoon for the purpose of reorganizing the Sunday school.

Mr. F. S. Kelly, who has been visiting Gabriella for the past two months has returned and reports everything on a boom down that way.

All our folks were out gathering wild flowers last Sunday morning.

FLORIDA CRACKER.

—The boy who saves his money becomes the banker, the merchant, the professional man.

If You Want Come to Out With the Real Thing,

For this Spring styles, put on one of our new Spring Suits cut in the latest fashion and one of our all one piece Panama Hats. You will find Quality, Style and Workmanship that can only be seen here. Rich in Style, Right in price. We have a large and varied stock of Shoes for the entire Family. The new and nobby Pump Style in White Canvass for Ladies are here. Also a large stock of Oxfords for Men. The well known Walkover and Hanan & Son Makes. Give us a call before buying elsewhere.

W. J. Chambers Shoe Co.